

## **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Applicant responds herein to the Office Action dated October 27, 2006.

Claim 8 has been withdrawn from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention.

Claims 1, 2, and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Muurinen, U.S. Patent No. 5,408,060. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to provide, in part, for, “[a] key input device comprising: key input means for inputting characters by key input in a plurality of character input modes; ... a key backlight which is placed on a lower surface of said key input means and is lighted in a plurality of colors; ... said key input means comprising a plurality of keys, said key backlight comprising light-emitting means located at a lower surface of the respective keys and located below the bottom of a top surface of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to the top surface of the respective keys.”

Antecedent basis for the amendment to claim 1 is found, for example, in the drawings, in Fig. 6.

In contrast, Muurinen only shows light-emitting means which are located between the bottom and top of a top surface of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to the top surface of the respective keys, as long as the light-emitting means are located at a lower surface of the respective keys, (see Figs. 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 13).

Since each of claims 2 and 9 is directly dependent on independent claim 1, each of claims 2 and 9 is allowable over Muurinen for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Muurinen.

Claims 3-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Muurinen in view of Kimura, U.S. Patent No. 6,762,740. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Since each of claims 3-7 is directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 1, each of claims 3-7 is allowable over Muurinen for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 1 over Muurinen.

With regard to Kimura, it does not disclose, teach, or suggest “light-emitting means ... located below the bottom of a top surface of the respective keys if the respective keys are viewed in a direction perpendicular to the top surface of the respective keys,” as claimed in independent claim 1, and, therefore, in dependent claims 3-7.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, allowance of claims 1-7 and 9 is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application, allow the claims as amended and pass this case to issue.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING  
SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY  
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Respectfully submitted,



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